

REMARKS

At the time the present Office Action was mailed (September 27, 2007), claims 1-31 were pending, with claims 23-31 allowed and the remaining claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 on the basis of one or more of the following references: WO01/50505 to Oberlitner ("Oberlitner"); U.S. Patent No. 4,868,575 to Mok et al. ("Mok"); U.S. Patent No. 4,937,998 to Goldberg ("Goldberg"); U.S. Patent No. 6,955,747 to Browne et al. ("Browne"); and US2001/0032788 to Woodruff et al. ("Woodruff").

In this response, claims 2, 3, 9, 12, 15, 18, 20 and 22 have been cancelled, without commenting on or conceding the merits of the outstanding rejections of these claims and without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a continuation or other application. Claims 1, 4-8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 21 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 23, without commenting on or conceding the merits of the outstanding rejections of these claims, and without prejudice to pursuing these claims in unamended or other forms in a continuation or other application.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner identifies any informalities or other matters that may be expediently handled by telephone, she is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 359-3257.

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Respectfully submitted,

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